

**8027:12/78**

**AMERICAN BAPTIST  
RESOLUTION ON LOBBY DISCLOSURE**

Since the First Amendment recognizes the right of religious bodies to the "free exercise" of their faith; and

Since Christians understand their calling in the world to require direct advocacy to governments by Christians, both as individuals and corporately in behalf of justice and the common good in contrast to lobbying by self-interest groups, and

Since occasionally there are efforts in many states and in the Congress to regulate, monitor, and make more difficult through "lobby disclosure" legislation all kinds of citizen advocacy on matters of public policy including that of churches;

Therefore, the General Board of the American Baptist Churches, USA, urges American Baptists to oppose legislation that would:

1. determine or regulate, directly or indirectly the religious mission of churches and their agencies;
2. require the registration of religious organizations involved in advocacy;
3. infringe in any way upon First Amendment protections of religious exercise, the right of petition, individual privacy or citizen advocacy.

Adopted by the General Board of the American Baptist Churches - December 1978  
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1990  
(General Board Reference # - 8027:12/78)

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**POLICY BASE**

**American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights - December 1976**

\* The right of every person to choose a religion freely, to maintain religious belief or unbelief without coercion; the right for communities of faith to meet together to engage in public worship, to witness publicly to others, to speak prophetically from religious conviction to government and society, to live out religious beliefs, and to be free from governmental intrusion, coercion, and control in the free exercise of conscience and religion.

\*\* The right of citizenship in a nation, to participate in the political process, to form political parties, to have a voice in the political arenas, to be secure from fear of deportation or expulsion, to emigrate and to have political asylum.

\* Section 1 of Human Rights Policy Statement

\*\*Section 11 of Human Rights Policy Statement

**American Baptist Convention Resolutions:**

**1966 Speaking to Social Issues**

**1959 Christian Citizenship**

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